

Storefront for Art and Architecture
Linda Pollak
September 12, 1998

Exhibition: Landscape Representations of Yves Brunier, 1986-1991

Location: Storefront for Art and Architecture

Dates: March-April 1999

Overview:

Yves Brunier's brilliant work compels recognition of the practice of landscape architecture. His representations of landscape are the most accomplished of any, notwithstanding the extreme brevity of his career, curtailed by his death in 1991 at age 29. Brunier was born and grew up in the French Alps, in the Haute Savoie region at Evian-les-Bains, a culture that is very involved with landscape. He attended the Ecole d'architecture de Grenoble (1980-82) and the Ecole Nationale supérieure du paysage de Versailles (diploma 1986). He collaborated on projects with the architects Rem Koolhaas and Jean Nouvel, and worked in association with Isabelle Auricoste from 1988-91.

The exhibition is being co-curated by Linda Pollak and Dutch landscape architect Paula Meijerink. Paula is in touch with Michel Jacques, the Director of Arc en Reves, the Museum in Bordeaux, where the archive of Brunier's materials is located. Michel has just (this week) returned to the office after being away; therefore Paula is now discussing possibilities with him. There is currently a show traveling in Europe now, but there has been no exhibition of Brunier's work in the U.S..

The Storefront exhibition will concentrate on Brunier's collage representations of landscape proposals. We hope to include 15-20 of the collages—mostly very large and beautiful reproductions (that are part of the traveling show), possibly some of the small originals (8" x 10"±) if we are able to get insurance to protect them, and to also include some sketches, as well as small photographs of the built work.

Storefront is an ideal venue for Brunier's work because of its focus on the city, and the urban landscape. As Paula describes: "He reinvented the notion of the garden in the city. His collages on first impression look like a five-year old's...and at the same time they are absolute imagination. He was able to visualize a world in his mind, ...a world [that did not yet exist but] that could be built." Yet it is not in any way restricted to hard surfaces; one of the most important contributions of Brunier involves his unsentimental and imaginative use of plants.

In addition to support from foundations, possible funding sources include Veuve Cliquot, the French Cultural Institute, Perrier, Sephora. It seems that this French export would be an attractive thing to fund, given the French obsession with landscape, the situation of the designer's brief career coupled with his extreme talent and intelligence.

US
Boston, Massachusetts 02111
phone/facsimile 617.338.2179
152 Commonwealth Avenue 4G
Boston, MA 02115
phone/facsimile 617.424.8078

470 Broome Street 5th floor south
New York, New York 10013
phone 212.274.9707 facsimile 212.274.9, 14
e-mail lpollak@gsd.harvard.edu